

WREB Examination Update

The Dental Board of California has filed proposed emergency regulations to establish a process to allow licensure applications from candidates who have passed the clinical examination administered by the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB). The regulations were filed with the State and Consumer Services Agency and the Department of Consumer Affairs for preliminary review. Once reviewed, the regulations will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval as to form and publication.

OAL will also have the final say as to whether the regulations will be made effective on an emergency basis as requested by the Dental Board. If accepted as emergency regulations, the regulations will become effective as of the date of filing with the Secretary of State. If the Dental Board's finding of emergency is not accepted then the normal regulatory process will be followed with a likely effective date in early April 2006.

Legislation was enacted in 2004 that would allow reliance on the clinical examination developed and administered by what was then the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) (WREB is now known as "WREB – A National Dental and Dental Hygiene Testing Agency"). The legislation, SB 1865 (Aanestad) made the WREB examination a valid pathway to licensure provided the examination was found to meet the requirements of Business and Professions Code Section 139. A report dated September 30, 2005 performed for the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Examination Resources (OER) concluded that the examination did satisfy that statutory requirement.

In anticipation of the review, the Dental Board, in August, approved a draft regulation establishing a process for making application for licensure in reliance on the WREB examination. On November 18, 2005, at the first meeting of the Board following the release of the OER review, the Board unanimously gave its approval to the regulations and directed staff to file them on an emergency basis.

The Dental Board is making plans to accommodate license applicants relying on the WREB who will still need to take the California Law and Ethics Examination in order to be licensed. Please check back to www.dbc.ca.gov for updates as the process continues.

What WREB results may be used for licensure in California?

Successful passage of the WREB dental examination on or after January 1, 2005 may be used to apply for licensure in California.

What will I need to apply based on my WREB examination result?

Applicants will be required to complete an application, pay the applicable fee and provide a copy of their WREB pass card.

Will I still need to pass the California Law and Ethics Examination?

Yes. The Board will start to schedule the Law and Ethics examination as soon as the volume of WREB applications can be determined. Applicants will be notified of dates and locations as they are determined.

If I previously failed the California clinical examination, but have now passed WREB am I eligible for license?

Yes. You are required to have passed one of the examinations. Your WREB result is valid as long as you successfully passed the exam on or after January 1, 2005.

If I have already passed the California Law and Ethics Examination do I have to retake it to obtain a license based on my WREB results?

No. A previous pass on the Law and Ethics examination can be used in conjunction with your WREB result. However, if it has been more than two years since you passed the Law and Ethics examination, you may be required to provide the Board with evidence of your having passed.

I am a foreign trained graduate not otherwise eligible to take the California clinical examination, can I still use my WREB results to obtain a license in California?

No. The WREB cannot be used as a means of circumventing the minimum qualifications required by the state of California for licensure. If you are not eligible to take the California examination, your WREB results will not be accepted as grounds for licensure.

As a foreign trained graduate, may I establish eligibility for the California examination after I take the WREB and then rely on the WREB results in my application for licensure?

Yes. A foreign-trained graduate can take the WREB and then complete the necessary steps to establish eligibility for the California examination. For

example, a foreign-trained graduate could take the WREB and subsequently take and pass the California Restorative Technique Examination and then make application for licensure. It should be noted, however, that in general clinical examination results are only valid for five years.

As a foreign-trained graduate intending to apply for a California license, do I need to obtain a clearance from California in order to take the WREB?

WREB's website (www.wreb.org) provides the following advice to foreign-trained graduates:

"You should contact the state board where you wish to practice dentistry and inform that board that you are a foreign graduate and want to participate in the WREB dental exam. The state board will send an original letter to the WREB office stating that you meet the requirements and are eligible to take the WREB dental exam. You may apply for the exam before submitting your proof of qualification. The proof of qualification letter from the state board can be sent up to two weeks prior to the first day of the exam. You will not receive your schedule until the qualifying letter is received, but your Candidate Guide and School Information will be sent if your application is received along with your General Information form, signed Policy agreement, two identical 2"x2" photographs and exam fee."

The Board will not issue an eligibility letter where an individual does not meet the minimum eligibility requirements to take the California examination. Additionally, as noted above, the Board will not issue a license based on WREB results to an individual that does not meet the minimum eligibility requirements to take the California examination.